



Leptospirosis in the Republic of Korea: Historical perspectives, current status and future challenges

Author(s): Kim MJ
Year: 2013
Journal: Infection & Chemotherapy. 45 (2): 137-144

Abstract:

Leptospirosis is an important public health problem in the Republic of Korea (ROK), occurring sporadically or in outbreaks during the autumn season. Wild rodents, *Apodemus agrarius*, have been mainly involved in human leptospirosis. The majority of carrier animals are infected with *Leptospira interrogans* serovar lai. The characteristic pulmonary involvement or hemorrhage may increase the clinical severity or result in fatal outcomes, and these aspects continue to be a threat to people in endemic areas. While the disease incidence has been relatively low in recent years, there have been newer findings of livestock (zoo animals and racing horses) and rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) captured in urban environments as potential animal carriers. Many avenues of research are still open to define current changes in ecology, epidemiology, and the disease burden in both humans and animals in the ROK, together with global warming and climate change issues. In addition, national policy regarding the weighted wildlife monitoring system and the enhanced disease surveillance program is required to facilitate better monitoring and understanding of this disease.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3947/ic.2013.45.2.137>

Resource Description

Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event

Extreme Weather Event: Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones

Geographic Feature: ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location: ☒

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Asia

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Asian Region/Country: Other Asian Country

Other Asian Country: Republic of Korea

Health Impact: ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Leptospirosis

Medical Community Engagement: ☒

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Resource Type: ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale: ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified